

EICHMANN,
A.

15-6-60

JX-2RT6

COUNTRY : Israel

SUBJECT : Sidelines of the EICHMANN Case

DATE OF INFO : Mid-May to late May 1960

PLACE ACQUIRED : Israel, Tel Aviv

SOURCE : An American (E) with excellent journalistic
and governmental contacts (E).
Appraisal of Content: 3

1. The principal security branch involved in the capture of Adolf EICHMANN was the Shin Bet (Internal Security). The Shin Bet reportedly had been working on the EICHMANN case for approximately six months and actually took EICHMANN into custody around the middle of May 1960. Several weeks prior to the capture of EICHMANN, both Efraim COHN, former Israeli Attorney General, and Pinhas ROSEN, the acting Attorney General, were said to have been warned that EICHMANN might be captured. Nonetheless,

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It was not until EICHMANN was en route to Israel on an airplane between Buenos Aires and Dakar that ROSEN was informed that EICHMANN was in custody of the Shin Bet and that he would be brought directly to Israel from Dakar.

2. When EICHMANN was asked if he would agree voluntarily to be taken to Israel for trial, he reportedly refused; however, about two days later, he "volunteered" to go to Israel in order to set the historical record straight and wrote a statement to that effect. A photostat of that statement has been sent to the Argentine Government.
3. The Shin Bet made many tests to insure that the man it took into custody was indeed EICHMANN, among them reportedly the following:
 - a. EICHMANN was known to have certain identifying marks on his body, all of which were present
 - b. EICHMANN's SS tattoo and his handwriting were identical under comparison
 - c. A prewar acquaintance of EICHMANN discussed his past meetings with EICHMANN and intentionally made some minor mistakes, every one of which EICHMANN allegedly corrected.

4. When EICHMANN was taken from prison to be handed over to the police, it is rumored that he believed that he was destined to his execution and that he was therefore visibly relieved by the sight of the vehicles and the uniformed police. EICHMANN will probably plead that he had no personal guilt and that he did only what he was told to do under circumstances which allowed him no choice. He might not contest the legality of his abduction if, by remaining silent, he could protect his family and allow it to continue its life under an assumed name.
5. The police, in reply to the obvious defense charge that EICHMANN's arrest was illegal, will probably claim that his arrest was perfectly legal and that only perhaps the way he got to the place of arrest was not legal. They will further probably maintain that this is not their problem, since it was not they who brought EICHMANN to the place of arrest. The courts might accept this, since it is obvious that EICHMANN would not have come to Israel of his own free will and since public opinion is so strong in this case.
6. Vladimir I. BELCHENKO, a Soviet diplomat in Israel, has stated that a "deal" had been effected between the

Government of Israel and EICHMANN, the latter being tired of waiting and the former needing something to offset the serious blow to its prestige at home and abroad occasioned by the sale of arms to Federal Republic of Germany. Moreover, according to BLICHENKO, the "capture" would also result in an increased budget for the security forces. In contrast, Shin Bet personnel are reported to feel that EICHMANN's trial, particularly the written court decisions, will be considered of such historical importance that the trial will be conducted with such extreme care and restraint that there can be no hint of conspiracy involving the courts. They also believe that EICHMANN will be executed, although they do not believe that an execution will take place before a year has passed.

RLF

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Source: Resp. from []
4 other material

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